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thereof, is treated along with many disputed questions such as maternal impressions. Naturally the question of the transmission of acquired characters receives much attention and the author puts himself among those who believe they are not transmitted. It should be noted that Professor Thompson everywhere separates the observed physical facts or processes from the theories advanced to account therefor. Late in the book, for instance one chapter is given to a history of the theories of heredity.

Disease is studied in the light of the newer knowledge and the change caused by the discovery of specific causes of disease (germs) is noted. Account is also taken of the methods of studying inheritance, by statistics, by experiment. In the latter chapter the work of Mendel and his followers, naturally receives much consideration. One of the author's earlier works, "The Evolution of Sex," of which he was a joint author, is recalled by the chapter on "Heredity and Sex."

To the social worker the last chapter will make special appeal. Its title is "Social Aspects of Biological Results." In this the author calls attention to the assistance biology can offer in solving certain social questions. The volume closes with a comprehensive bibliography and index.

I can hardly recommend this book too highly, for it so clearly states what is and what is not known. Its tone is conservative and no wild statements are found. It should be in every library and every social student may read it with profit.

CARL KELSEY.

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Walling, W. E. *Russia's Message*. Pp. xviii, 467. Price, \$3.00. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1908.

Russia's Message is a profound study of the Russian Revolution. In thoroughness of treatment, in mastery of detail, and in grasp of the many forces,—physical, economic, moral, political,—that go to make up the gigantic struggle of the Russian people against autocracy, it has hardly an equal among recent works on the subject by foreign observers.

Owing to the important part which the land question has played in the Douma and in the country at large, a considerable part of the book is taken up with a description of the economic condition of the peasantry, special attention being given to the terms of the emancipation of 1861, and the effect it produced both upon the lot of the individual peasant and upon the economy of Russia's most important single industry—agriculture. The style of presentation is calculated to appeal to the general reader rather than the economic student, and the human element is kept to the fore. The description of the wretched life of the half-starved peasantry cannot fail to appeal to any intelligent reader, whether economist or not. The recital of the cruelties practiced upon the peasants by the local government agents, among whom Premier Stolypin, at the time governor of the Province of Saratov, figures very prominently, is appalling, yet is supported by circumstantial details taken from official documents.

However, the author's chief interest centers in the political struggle and the greater part of the book deals with the events and conditions connected with it. The author's appreciation of the magnitude and importance of the political transformation now taking place in Russia is best expressed in the following passage:

"I saw Count Tolstoi just after the meeting of the first Douma, and told him I had come to spend several years to observe the revolution. 'You had better stay here fifty years,' he answered. 'The revolution is a drama of several acts. This Douma is not even the first act, but only the first scene of the first act, and as is usual with first scenes it is a trifle comic.'"

Opening with a pen picture of the events of 1904-1907, he gives us in successive chapters a description of the Czar, the administrative machine through which he governs, his unofficial, yet far more dreaded direction of the sinister forces familiarly known as the Black Hundreds, and finally leads up to an account of the late paper constitution and how it has worked out in practice.

Part III of the book, entitled "Revolt," is devoted to the peasantry and, in addition to an account of their economic condition, deals with their political activity, affording a rare insight into the psychology of the Russian peasant, whom the outside world has been accustomed to regard as a dull, ignorant wretch, incapable of grappling with simple problems, let alone matters of statecraft.

In Part IV—"Evolution of a New Nation"—the nobility, the professional elements, capitalists and employees, are seen organizing and playing a part in the national drama. We see them unite in a national organization, "The Union of Unions," bring forth great leaders, wring concessions from the government, only to succumb to party differences which destroy the unity of the opposition and give the reactionaries a chance to close up their shattered ranks and one by one overcome the forces of progress.

Part V, "Revolution and the Message," gives in the concluding 120 pages of the book a review of the work of the revolutionary elements now carried on by them under the surface, calculated to prepare the nation for a more successful combat with the government when the national conflict once more reaches a critical stage. A particularly interesting chapter is "How the Priests are Becoming Revolutionists," followed by chapter VI, "The Religious Revolution," in which the deep moral and intellectual transformation of the peasantry is described.

The author's interest in the Russian Revolution is not so much on its own account as for the message it contains for his own country and the rest of the civilized world. The message in the author's mind is that it is not a mere political revolution, but a social revolution aiming at the achievement of greater justice in the relations between the classes and not recoiling before most radical changes in the established forms of society. The Russian people in its overwhelming majority being still an agricultural nation, the ownership of land is the most vital problem, and the people as a whole, except the insignificant minority of 130,000 landlords owning the great estates, demand virtually the nationalization of land and the compulsory expropriation of the

landlords. This demand profoundly dominates the entire movement and is responsible for the otherwise inexplicable universal popularity of socialism in the land of the Czar.

"In developing the new idea of the laws of the growth of society, the Russian people are also reaching a new conception of all life, of all realms of human activity, even of science, art, and religion. For the conception of the law of social growth that prevails in any society itself, marks the whole psychical condition of that society. When this conception changes all other ideas change; this is why Russia is leading, not only in social thinking and ideals, but in all the realms of spiritual life." Such is the spirit of Russia's message.

With all his care as to the facts the author has not escaped some errors in which it is so easy for students not familiar with the language of the country to fall. A few instances may be mentioned. On page 154 we are informed that the Slavs were not worshippers of many gods before their conversion to Christianity; the author's estimation of the vitality and stability of the Russian Commune (page 160 and elsewhere) is not borne out by investigations of authoritative Russian economists and statisticians. Biren, a powerful minister during the reign of Empress Ann, is reported executed under Peter the Great (page 193) who preceded her on the throne. Men-shikov, a favorite of Peter the Great, who commenced his career as a poor street-urchin, is made to appear to have suffered at the hands of Peter on account of his noble birth. The errors, however, are few and unimportant.

A few important political documents which promise to become historical are added as appendices to the volume, which is made very attractive by numerous illustrations mostly taken from life by the author in his journeys which took him through every important part of the country from Siberia to the Black Sea.

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Washington, D. C.

Ward, R. DeC. *Climate: Considered Especially in Relation to Man.* Pp. xvi, 372. Price, \$2.00. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1908.

The general tendency in all the human sciences at the present time is to place increasing emphasis on man's relation to the environment in which he lives. In the various factors which go to make up the purely physical part of man's surroundings, climate always has borne the closest relationship to human progress and prosperity. Though this fact has been clearly recognized for some time by many students of economic subjects, there has not been, heretofore, any single volume, or series of volumes, in fact, which presented in an adequate manner the significant relationships between climate and man. Abundant isolated items about climatic control have been included in the multitude of books of travel and exploration issued of late years, but to gather any correlated idea of the whole subject was impossible for the average individual and a task of long, patient note-taking for the teacher or student.

The author of the present volume, therefore, enters a practically new field